

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4088

UNCLAS LIMA 1633

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PRESS COVERAGE OF CAB ORDER

REF: LIMA 1603

1. PRESS ON FEBRUARY 26, CONTINUED TO DISCUSS CAB SHOW CAUSE ORDER. OFFICIAL GOP GAZETTE, "EL PERUANO," CARRIED TEXT OF AEROPERU PRESS STATEMENT WHICH PARALLELED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED BY "EL COMERCIO" TO GENERAL SOTO WHICH WAS REPORTED REFTEL. COPY BEING POUCHED.

2. GOP-OWNED "LA CRONICA" CARRIED PAGE TWO ARTICLE UNDER HEADLINE "AERIOPERU WILL TRY TO PREVENT ISSUANCE OF U.S. ORDER". STORY SAYS THAT AEROPERU WILL ASK FOR EXTENSION OF MARCH 17 DEADLINE IN ORDER PRESENT BETTER CASE AND THEN QUOTES GENERAL SOTO TO EFFECT THAT AEROPERU'S WASHINGTON LAWYERS WILL FORMALLY OPPOSE CAB ORDER WITHIN TWENTY DAY LIMIT. SOTO SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT OF STRENGTH OF AERO- PERU'S CASE. HE ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT "IN REALITY" HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER CAB ORDER WAS ISSUED IN RESPONSE BRANIFF REQUEST. ARTICLE MISQUOTED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, TO WHOM REPORTER HAD SPOKEN BY PHONE, TO EFFECT THAT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR CAB TO EXTEND TWENTY DAY PERIOD. ARTICLE CORRECTLY QUOTED EMBOFF IN SAYING CAB ORDER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE REPRISAL BUT IS ONE STEP

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MORE IN A CONTINUING PROCESS DURING WHICH NEGOTIATIONS

WILL HOPEFULLY CONTINUE; TALKS BETWEEN BRANIFF AND AEROPERU HAVE NOT FAILED, BUT SIMPLY HAVENOT YET REACHED ANY CONCLUSION. REST OF ARTICLE WAS REHASH OF PREVIOUS DAY'S STORY, BUT TONE OF WHOLE WAS RELATIVELY MODERATE.

3. "LA CRONICA" ALSO CARRIED EDITORIAL SAYING THAT CAB ORDER WAS "SURPRISING...(BUT) FORESEEABLE, GIVEN THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS..." IT STATES THAT, AFTER TENSE NEGOTIATIONS, AN "ACCORD" WAS REACHED (SIC) BASED ON EQUAL DIVISION OF TRAFFIC. "THE ACCORD COINCIDED WITH THE SAME NORMS OF AVIATION LAW WHICH THE US IS THE FIRST TO WIELD WHEN IT IS CONFRONTED WITH THE COMPETITION FROM PROWERFUL AIRLINES OF OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT CAB ORDER IS NOT FINAL DECISION; THAT IS TAKEN AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF USG. WHEN THIS DECISION OCCURS, THEN "THE TRUE AMERICAN ATTITUDE WILL BE SEEN WITH EXTREME CLARITY".

4. FAR LEFT "EXPRESSO" CARRIED SHORT STORY UNDER HEADLINE, "THEY DON'T BELIEVE VETO OF AEROPERU IN U.S. CAN PROSPER." TEXT WAS SHORTER, NONPOLEMICAL VERSION OF "LA CRONICA" REPORT AND NOTED THAT AEROPERU'S LAWYERS HAVE ASKED FOR A 10-DAY POSTPONEMENT OF DEADLINE TO MARCH 27.
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